

## UCAL 98 Spill

**Date of Spill:** March 20, 2008

**Location:** Greka Oil and Gas, United California Lease, California

**Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water):** 5 barrels

On the morning of March 20, 2008 while walking the drainage for the Greka UCAL Road Spill ([www.epaosc.net/Greka\\_UCAL-RD](http://www.epaosc.net/Greka_UCAL-RD)) when the START discovered another spill. This spill was on a hillside adjacent to UCAL Lease Well #98. The spill was from a subterranean pipeline. The oil had pooled in an excavated area on the hillside. The oil migrated down the hillside and into a ravine. The oil stopped approximately 10' before the creek. According to the landowner, that creek flows to Bradley Canyon Creek, which flows to the Santa Maria River. Greka placed dams at the connection with the creek to prevent migration into the creek. EPA notified Greka of the spill. Greka responded and began to excavate the source of the spill. Due to the strong smell of field gas, the Santa Barbara Co. Fire Department was called out twice to do monitoring because Greka could not find the source. Neither the Fire Department or Greka had a FID that could detect subpercentage levels of field gas. OSC Wise dispatched the START to the site with FIDs to do monitoring. Once they were on-site, monitoring indicated levels of unknown VOCs of up to 46 ppm. Based on the EPA policy of >5ppm unknown VOCs requires level C, EPA required Greka to upgrade to level C. The source of the spill was a small pipe from UCAL 41 that contained drip gas. The pipe was closed off and drained. The all of the contamination in the hole was excavated as well as the contamination that escaped down the slope of the hill towards the creek. As of March 31, 2008, the cleanup was completed.

**Website:** [www.epaosc.org/GrekaUCAL98](http://www.epaosc.org/GrekaUCAL98).



Above: Oil that migrated from the source towards the creek.

Picture: U.S. EPA

Below: EPA conducting air monitoring during Greka's cleanup.

Picture: U.S. EPA



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Emergency Response Section, Region 9

